LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method for transitioning between digital video streams, the method comprising:

serving a first video stream with a packet identifier (PID) value;

determining shifts needed to be applied to timing information in a second video stream in order to generate recalculated timing information; wherein the shifts are determined based on a last received clock reference;

replacing the timing information in the second video stream with the recalculated timing information;

transitioning in an immediate and smooth manner to the second video stream having the same PID value; and

serving the second video stream.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein transitioning in an immediate and smooth manner comprises transitioning without an unsynchronized delay at a beginning of the second video stream.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein transitioning in an immediate and smooth manner comprises transitioning without an unstable period at an end of the first video stream.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein transitioning in an immediate and smooth manner comprises transitioning without an unsynchronized delay at a beginning of the second video stream and without an unstable period at an end of the first video stream.

5. (withdrawn) A method for transitioning between digital video streams, the method comprising:

serving a first video stream;

transitioning to a transition point in a second video stream;

marking a discontinuity indicator in a packet located at the transition point; and

serving the second video stream from the transition point onwards, wherein the packet located at the transition point comprises a clock reference value.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

predetermining transition points in the video streams.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the transition point comprises a beginning of a stripe section of a storage drive in a storage array.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, where the method is performed by a video server.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, where the method is performed at a cable distribution headend.

10. (previously presented) A method for transitioning between digital video streams, the method comprising:

transmitting a first video stream;

wherein the first video stream has associated with it a plurality of transition points comprising respective beginnings of a stripe section of a storage drive in a storage array;

transitioning from the first video stream to a second video stream;

determining shifts needed to be applied to timing information in the second video stream in order to generate recalculated timing information; wherein the shifts are determined based on a last received clock reference;

replacing the timing information in the second video stream with the recalculated timing information; and

transmitting the second video stream.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the timing information includes decode and presentation time stamps.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the timing information includes clock reference values.

13. (original) The method of claim 10, where the method is performed at a distribution headend.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, where the method is performed at a remote hub of a distribution system.

15. (withdrawn) A method for transitioning between digital video streams, the method comprising:

transmitting packets of a first video stream;

receiving a signal to transition from the first video stream to a second video stream;

removing packets of the first video stream, and transmitting picture repeat packets in substitute therefor; and

transmitting packets of the second video stream.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, where the picture repeat packets comprise zero motion vectors.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

after receiving the signal and before removing packets, transmitting packets of the first video stream until a first packet comprising a reference picture.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, where removing packets begins with the first packet comprising the reference picture.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, where the method is performed at a distribution headend.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, where the method is performed at a remote hub of a distribution system.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the shifts applied to timing information are adapted to a lag between the time of a transition at a server and the time of the transition at a subscriber station.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the shifts comprise differences between a program clock reference of the first video stream and a program clock reference of the second video stream.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein a first packet including recalculated timing information is associated with a discontinuity indicator.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the discontinuity indicator is adapted to cause a clock reset at a subscriber station.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein each transition point is identified via a discontinuity indicator.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the transition points are associated with respective reference frames.

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the transition points are associated with respective reference frames.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the transition points are associated with respective NULL packets.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a signal to transition from the first video stream to the second video stream; and

removing packets of the first video stream, and transmitting picture repeat packets in substitute therefore.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, where the picture repeat packets comprise zero motion vectors.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

after receiving the signal to transition, and before removing packets, transmitting packets of the first video stream until a first packet comprising a reference picture.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a signal to transition from the first video stream to the second video stream; and

removing packets of the first video stream, and inserting NULL packets in substitute therefore.